

Date: 4 May, 1983

Place of Interview: Foster Community Center, Evanston

Conversation with: Mrs Francis Bell

By: David Owusu-Ansah

Comment: Mrs Bell and three other ladies were engaged in a cards games when the conversation began. She had wanted to talk to me because she has learnt that I come from Ghana. Some friends of her visited Ghana some time ago; I found Mrs Bell very friendly and interesting. In fact, she started the conversation by asking me everything about my family at home. In the end, she remarked: "You see, you are not interviewing me, I am interviewing you". I have not been seriously engaged in interviewing her because I found her too much engaged in the cards games, and the other ladies showed signs of concern when Mrs. Bell continued to make mistakes in the game because of not concentrating on either the game or the interview. On the whole, I found all of them very likeable. Given the situation, I just collected basic information about Mrs. Bell.

Q. What year were you born?

A. I was born in Mississippi. In 1935, I came to Evanston. By this time I have completed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of High School. I came to Evanston through Michigan.

Q. What were you doing in Michigan?

A. My big sister was married to a man from Michigan and I went to stay with them. It was in Michigan that I met a man who I got married to and he came from Evanston, and he brought me with him to Evanston.

Q. What was the work of your husband?

A. Till his death, he worked as a teacher in a blind school.

Q. Was he a blind man?

A. Yes.

Q. What work did you do when you came to Evanston?

A. I worked for the federal government.

Q. What work did you do for the federal government?

A. This was in 1943; I worked as a 'graphic type Operator', and even though I have taken the examinations and qualified for the job, it was very difficult to obtaining one.

Comment.

By this time she became more informal, mostly talking of the game she was engaged in, and other general topics. I excused myself and thanked the ladies for their time.

